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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 4-29 MAY 1992

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Addendum

CHAPTER V. COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

E. Latin America and the Caribbean (continued)

Brazil

1. The Resident Representative introduced the fifth country programme for Brazil, which has a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $14.2 million and estimated cost-sharing of $237.6 million. These resources will be oriented towards the areas of: (a) education, science and technology; (b) modernization of the productive sector; (c) environment and development; and (e) health and social development.

2. In a comprehensive statement, he outlined the main features of the country programme, which included both substantive orientations and innovative modalities. He indicated that, considering the comparative advantages of UNDP, the Government had provided substantial cost-sharing resources. The three attributes of flexibility, efficiency and credibility had all

contributed to opening new areas of cooperation, particularly with the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) continued to be of major importance.

3. Six delegations, in addition to the Brazilian delegation, spoke in favour of the country programme. One delegation noted with satisfaction that the Human Development Report had been well received in Brazil, and that it had been used in planning work. It noted, however, that success in integrating gender concerns into that process had been limited. It also mentioned that government management still needed significant strengthening, and wondered what effect UNDP assistance could have in that respect. UNDP support to the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and in coordinating assistance from the United Nations system was particularly commended.

4. One delegation, noting that distribution of resources and income was still very inequitable in Brazil, particularly with regard to health and education services for the poorer population groups, said that UNDP should review how best it could address those issues. The question of women in development also needed to be given greater attention in the country programme.

Chile

5. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Chile which involves a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $9.4 million and cost-sharing also of $9.4 million. He cited the three main areas of concentration of the programme, namely: (a) democratization of the State: decentralization, public participation, and modernization of central government; (b) social development: overcoming poverty; and (c) modernization of production.

6. Particular mention was made of the positive developments achieved in relation to the democratization process, and of the significant strides being made in terms of economic growth and foreign trade. UNDP's assistance in the creation and strengthening of the International Cooperation Agency (ASGCI) was also stressed, and particularly commended by one delegation.

7. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Chile.

Dominican Republic

8. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for the Dominican Republic, which has a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $13.3 million and estimated cost-sharing of $36.1 million. The programme is oriented towards the areas of: (a) implementation of economic reforms; (b) restructuring of growth-oriented sectors; (c) human development and social sector management; and (d) management of environmental strategy.

9. One delegation took the floor in support of the country programme, noting that it was well conceived, particularly the section relating to the environment, and that it conformed satisfactorily to the UNDP's thematic priorities. Its focus on capacity-building of government institutions was

fully justified. The considerable effectiveness of a limited IPF in resource mobilization was indicative of close relationships with the Government and major donors. While appreciating the good collaboration between UNDP and his Government's aid mission, he said that coordination should be strengthened with other bilateral organizations and with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

10. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for the Dominican Republic.

Guatemala

11. The Resident Representative introduced the sixth country programme for Guatemala, which has a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $9.6 million and estimated cost-sharing of $12.7 million. These resources will be concentrated in the areas of: (a) assistance in consolidating national peace and reconciliation; (b) assistance for stabilization and economic growth; and (c) support for action to reduce poverty.

12. Eight delegations made comments in support of approval for the programme. Many of them noted with satisfaction UNDP's role in consolidating peace and national reconciliation, particularly with respect to vulnerable groups and indigenous populations, and including the area of human rights. Two delegations said the programme was well focused and appropriate, while another thought it was too dispersed. One delegation considered that more attention could be given to the private sector and strengthening donor coordination.

13. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the sixth country programme for Guatemala.

Honduras

14. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Honduras, which has a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $12.5 million, and estimated cost-sharing of $25.6 million, to be concentrated in the areas of: (a) support for the economic modernization and social development programme; (b) strengthening of production sectors and improvement of employment and remuneration; and (c) reform, modernization and decentralization of the State.

15. One delegation spoke in support of the country programme. It pointed out that coordination needed to be improved between UNDP and the agencies, as well as their mutual understanding on their respective roles in project execution. Nevertheless, it felt that the UNDP office was functioning well and providing useful service to the Government. The same delegation wondered why the environment had not been fully taken into account.

16. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Honduras.

Mexico

17. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Mexico, which has a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $9.6 million and estimated cost-sharing of $9.3 million. These resources would be concentrated in the areas of (a) water, ecology and environment; (b) poverty and population; (c) high technology; and (d) strengthening of technical cooperation.

18. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Mexico.

Nicaragua

19. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Nicaragua, which has a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $19.7 million and estimated cost-sharing of $48.1 million subject to eventual revision, in the following areas of concentration: (a) consolidation of the rule of law and order and national reconciliation and socio-economic rehabilitation; (b) economic stabilization and structural adjustment programme; (c) revival of production sectors; and (d) social development and eradication of poverty.

20. The Nicaraguan delegation highlighted the context of the country programme in terms of a country emerging from the scars of a bitter civil war, with a major task of adjustment and reconciliation to accomplish. The added problem of a massive foreign debt, a critical socio-economic situation and per capita income of $350 per head, put the country in the "As if" LDC category. Nevertheless, the Government was addressing the issues boldly, a significant sign being the reduction of military personnel from 90,000 to 20,000, and the return of the majority to civilian life.

21. Six delegations spoke in favour of the country programme. One of them considered that the focus of four areas could over-extend government capacity, particularly since it was proposed to expand the use of the national execution modality. It was therefore suggested that the process should be carried out gradually, the major emphasis being placed on institutional capacity-building. The same delegation also noted that references to a number of features, such as women in development and the private sector were weak, and should be addressed, while two delegations made the same comment with respect to the environment. One delegation suggested that a report from a conference on the judicial system should be used as a basis for dialogue on the issues involved.

22. With respect to coordination, one delegation reported that it was very effective, while two others felt that UNDP should play a more active catalytic role and organize regular donor coordination meetings.

23. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Nicaragua.